Mahatma Gandhi's letters acquired by Indian High Commission, London

†1665. SHRI RAFIQUE ALAM:
SHRI TALARI MANOHAR:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian High Commission in London has acquired Mahatma Gandhi's letters at an auction in London recently; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Consisting of 424 items (287 letters and 137 telegrams), these papers, covering the years February 1909 to December 1946, were acquired by our High Commission in London at a public auction held by Sotheby's London, in December, 1986. These papers throw a new light on the little known period in Gandhiji's life, his years in South Africa, and they constitute a major new biographical source material.

Brain Drain

‡1666. SHRI SUBAS MOHANTY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that a large number of IIT and top Government medical college students leave India after getting their degrees;

(b) whether government propose to insist or execution of a bond for at least five years' service in India by such students after obtaining a degree from any all India educational institutions like IIT and Regional Engineering Colleges;

(c) whether any such constraint is presently in force to curb such exploitation of our educational institutions; and

(d) what steps Government are taking to weed out potential students who emmigrate after getting valuable education in premier educational institutions of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) to (d) For a variety of reasons and in absolute terms—the number of engineering and medical degree holders leaving India at present is not large. Furthermore many of those who go out do come back. Several steps have been taken to retain the bright ones in the country. These include: campus recruitment, placement services, enhancement of research fellowships, provision of better facilities for training in emerging areas etc. Only in cases where there are not adequate facilities in India, students are allowed to go abroad for training. There is no proposal at present to insist on a bond binding students of Indian Institutes of Technology, Regional Engineering Colleges etc. to serve in India for at least five years after they get their degrees.

Passenger Ship from Haldia to Madras

1667. SHRI SUBAS MOHANTY: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the demand from the public to start a passenger Ship from Haldia, reaching Madras *via* ports at Paradeep and Gopalpur-at-Sea, in Orissa; and

(b) if so, what action has been taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) Director General of Shipping has reported that there is no such demand from the public.

(b) Does not arise.

†Previously Unstarred Question 774, transferred from the 3rd March, 1987.

‡Previously Unstarred Question 1002, transferred from the 5th March, 1987.